

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The State Constitution, Article V, section 5, provides that the Governor is the Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the State. The Department of Defense is established under section 26-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Adjutant General, pursuant to section 121-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is the executive head of the Department of Defense and the commanding general of the militia of the State and, pursuant to section 26-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Director of Civil Defense. The Adjutant General supervises all of the forces comprising the military components of the Department of Defense of the State. Military supervisory power includes the command, discipline, training, and recruiting of the armed forces of the State, military operations, distribution of troops, inspections, armament, military education and instruction, fiscal operations, administration, and supply.

Civil Defense Division

The Civil Defense Division plans, coordinates, and supervises civil defense activities throughout the State. The objectives of civil defense are to minimize the loss of life and property, restore essential public services, and expedite recovery and rehabilitation in the event of natural disaster, and, in the event of national emergency, to ensure the continuation of civil government and to manage the mobilization and utilization of the State's resources and production.

Army and Air National Guard Divisions

The Hawaii National Guard, which consists of the Hawaii Air National Guard and the Hawaii Army National Guard, maintains its readiness for state and federal active duty. Both the Air and Army National Guard are prepared for local or global assignments, should the Governor or President order either to active duty. Each member of the Air and Army National Guard is a member of the state militia and the National Guard of the United States. All members are subject, as the case may be, to the call of Governor or the President. The National Guard (at the state level) and the militia are regulated under chapter 121, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Hawaii State Defense Force

The Hawaii State Defense Force, established under chapter 122A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is currently an inactive division of the Department of Defense. When activated as part of the State's organized militia, the Hawaii State Defense Force may be employed by competent civil authority to help preserve peace and order and maintain the public's safety. Members consist of able-bodied citizen volunteers, supplemented, if necessary, by members of the State's unorganized militia.

Civil Defense Advisory Council

The Civil Defense Advisory Council, established under section 128-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, consists of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Persons holding public office or employed in the government of the State or any of its political subdivisions are eligible for appointment to the Council. The Council sits in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Director of Civil Defense on matters pertaining to civil defense.

Office of Veterans' Services

The Office of Veterans' Services, established under section 363-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and placed in the Department of Defense for administrative purposes, is the principal agency in state government responsible for the administration and conduct of all functions and activities concerning veterans. It maintains a veterans' services delivery network, evaluates services to veterans, serves as a clearinghouse for veterans' complaints, and operates the State Veterans Cemetery on Oahu.

Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

The Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, established under section 363-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Five members must be veterans, and there must be at least one member from each of the counties. The Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the Director of Labor, and the Adjutant General are ex officio members. The Advisory Board sits in an advisory capacity to the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy

The Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, located at Kalaeloa, was begun in September 1994. The program provides sixteen- to eighteen-year-old at-risk youths a second chance to earn their high school diploma, while learning the skills and discipline necessary to become productive citizens. The students, or "corpsmembers," live in a military-style environment for 22 weeks during the residential phase of the program. Corpsmembers must remain drug-free and be physically and mentally able to complete the program. A personal mentor follows the progress of the corpsmember for at least one year during the post-residential phase. In the post-residential phase, corpsmembers are required to enroll in higher education, enlist in the U.S. military, or hold gainful employment in order to attain their diploma. The program is funded mostly by the federal government, with the State funding a smaller portion.

